



01272.020499

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIDEAKI OKAMOTO, et al.

Application No.: 10/029,244

Filed: December 28, 2001

For: STRUCTURE AND
MANUFACTURE METHOD
THEREFOR, LIQUID TANK
AND MANUFACTURE METHOD
THEREFOR, INK JET
APPARATUS AND
MANUFACTURE METHOD
THEREFOR, AND HEAD
CARTRIDGE AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2853

May 14, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

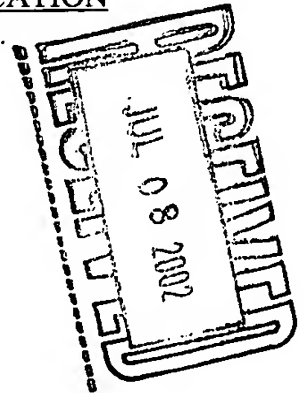
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,663,754
Europe 312,924
Europe 1,057,644

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated April 12, 2002 is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.



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Moreover, inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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